

REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted the claims into the following Groups:

Group I- Claims 1-2 and 18-20, drawn to an isolated SMN protein;

Group II - Claims 3-13, 17, 24-29, and 37, drawn to nucleic acids encoding SMN proteins, vectors, full length antisense probes and host cells;

Group III - Claims 14-16, drawn to oligonucleotides;

Group IV - Claims 21-23, 30-34, 36 and 40-52 drawn to kits and methods of detecting motor neuron diseases comprising the use of nucleic acids;

Group V - Claim 35 drawn to antibodies of the SMN protein; and

Group VI - Claims 38-39 drawn to transgenic mice.

Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of group IV, Claims 21-23, 30-34, 36 and 40-52, drawn to kits and methods of detecting motor neuron diseases comprising the use of nucleic acids. Applicants further reserve the right to further pursue the non-elected subject matter of the application in one or more divisional applications.

Compliance with the requirements regarding nucleic acid and
amino acid sequences

Enclosed herewith is a substitute Sequence Listing which has corrected errors generated in the originally submitted Sequence Listing of July 2, 1998. The errors in the July 2, 1998 Sequence Listing occurred as a result in "glitches" in the Patent-In program. Specifically, the program omitted nucleic acid bases represented by "n." In addition, upon review, it was noted that several sequences disclosed in the originally filed specification were not included the Sequence Listing of July 2, 1998.

Applicants further request that a disk copy of the Sequence Listing filed on February 8, 1999 in parent Application No. 08/545,196 be transferred to the present application. The Sequence Listing filed on February 8, 1999 in the parent application and the present paper copy of the Sequence Listing are identical except for the word processing formatting.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present response or application, he is requested to please contact MaryAnne Liotta, PhD in the Washington DC area, at (703) 205-8000.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time

filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:
Sequence Listing